

(c) The responsible line officer shall review the planning and land use policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. The results of this review shall be displayed in the environmental impact statement for the plan (40 CFR 1502.16(c), 1506.2). The review shall include—

(1) Consideration of the objectives of other Federal, State and local governments, and Indian tribes, as expressed in their plans and policies;

(2) An assessment of the interrelated impacts of these plans and policies;

(3) A determination of how each Forest Service plan should deal with the impacts identified; and,

(4) Where conflicts with Forest Service planning are identified, consideration of alternatives for their resolution.

(d) In developing land and resource management plans, the responsible line officer shall meet with the designated State official (or designee) and representatives of other Federal agencies, local governments, and Indian tribal governments at the beginning of the planning process to develop procedures for coordination. As a minimum, such conferences shall also be held after public issues and management concerns have been identified and prior to recommending the preferred alternative. Such conferences may be held in conjunction with other public participation activities, if the opportunity for government officials to participate in the planning process is not thereby reduced.

(e) In developing the forest plan, the responsible line officer shall seek input from other Federal, State and local governments, and universities to help resolve management concerns in the planning process and to identify areas where additional research is needed. This input should be included in the discussion of the research needs of the designated forest planning area.

(f) A program of monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted that includes consideration of the effects of National Forest management on land, resources, and communities adjacent to or near the National Forest being planned and the effects upon National Forest management of activities on nearby lands

managed by other Federal or other government agencies or under the jurisdiction of local governments.

[47 FR 43037, Sept. 30, 1982, as amended at 48 FR 29122, June 24, 1983]

#### **§ 219.8 Regional planning procedure.**

(a) *Regional guide.* A regional guide shall be developed for each administratively designated Forest Service region. Regional guides shall reflect general coordination of National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research programs. Regional guides shall provide standards and guidelines for addressing major issues and management concerns which need to be considered at the regional level to facilitate forest planning. Public participation and coordination, the current RPA Program and Assessment, and the existing forest and resource plans shall be used as sources of information in meeting this requirement. Data and information requirements established nationally will be followed in structuring and maintaining required data.

(b) *Responsibilities*—(1) *Chief, Forest Service.* The Chief shall establish agency-wide policy for regional planning and approve all regional guides.

(2) *Regional forester.* The Regional Forester has overall responsibility for preparing and implementing the regional guide and for preparing the environmental impact statement for proposed standards and guidelines in the regional guide. The Regional Forester appoints and supervises the interdisciplinary team.

(3) *Interdisciplinary team.* The team, under the direction of the Regional Forester, implements the public participation and coordination activities required by § 219.6 and § 219.7. The team shall continue to function even though membership may change and shall monitor and evaluate planning results and recommend amendments. The team shall develop a regional guide in compliance with NEPA procedures.

(c) *Public review.* A draft and final environmental impact statement shall be prepared for the proposed standards and guidelines in the regional guide according to NEPA procedures. To the extent feasible, a single process shall

be used to meet planning and NEPA requirements. The draft statement shall identify a preferred alternative. Beginning on the date of publication of the notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the statement and the proposed guide shall be available for public comment for at least 3 months at convenient locations in the vicinity of the lands covered by the guide. During this period, and in accordance with the provisions in §219.6, the Regional Forester or his designee shall publicize and hold public participation activities as deemed necessary for adequate public input.

(d) *Guide approval.* The Chief shall review the proposed guide and the final environmental impact statement and either approve or disapprove the guide.

(1) *Approval.* The Chief shall prepare a concise public record of decision which documents approval and accompanies the regional guide and the final environmental impact statement. The record or decision shall be prepared according to NEPA procedures (40 CFR 1505.2). The approved regional guide shall not become effective until at least 30 days after publication of the notice of availability of the final environmental impact statement in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) *Disapproval.* The Chief shall return the regional guide and final environmental impact statement to the Regional Forester with a written statement of the reasons for disapproval. The Chief may also specify a course of action to be undertaken by the Regional Forester in order to remedy deficiencies, errors, or omissions in the regional guide or environmental impact statement.

(e) *Public appeal of approval decisions.* The provisions of 36 CFR part 211, subpart B apply to any administrative appeal of the Chief's decision to approve a regional guide. Decisions to disapprove a guide and other decisions made during the regional planning process prior to issuance of a record of decision approving the guide are not subject to administrative appeal.

(f) *Amendment.* The Regional Forester may amend the regional guide. The Regional Forester shall determine whether the proposed amendment would re-

sult in a significant change in the guide. If the change resulting from the proposed amendment is determined to be significant, the Regional Forester shall follow the same procedure for amendment as that required for development and approval of a regional guide. If the change resulting from the amendment is determined not to be significant for the purposes of the planning process, the Regional Forester may implement the amendment following appropriate public notification and satisfactory completion of NEPA procedures.

(g) *Planning records.* The Regional Forester shall develop and maintain planning records that document decisions and activities that result from the process of developing a regional guide and the accomplishment of legal and administrative planning requirements. These records include at least the draft environmental impact statement, final environmental impact statement, regional guide, record of decision, a work plan to guide and manage planning, the procedures used in completing each action, and the results of these actions.

#### §219.9 Regional guide content.

(a) The regional guide shall contain—

(1) A summary of the analysis of the regional management situation, including a brief description of the existing management situation and the major issues and management concerns which need to be addressed at the regional level to facilitate forest planning;

(2) A description of management direction including programs, goals, and objectives;

(3) A display of tentative resource objectives for each forest planning area from the current RPA Program;

(4) New or significantly changed regional management standards and guidelines necessary to address major regional issues and management concerns identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section;

(5) Specific standards and guidelines for the following—

(i) Prescribing appropriate harvest cutting methods to be used within the region according to geographic areas,